Wisconsin Conservation Congress [Committee Title] Meeting Minutes



ORDER OF BUSINESS 08/10/2019 0930 Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

| Meeting called to order by | Chair Dale Maas at | 0934 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------|

B. ROLL CALL

| | Sandra Dee Naas, Tom Johnson, Nick Schertz, Al Marotz, Tyrone Larson, Dale Maas, Don Anderson, David Tupa, Juliee de la Terre, Anthony Grabski, John Blumreich, Eugene Altwies, John Rennpferd, Bob Wincek, Chris Growth, Iyob Tsehaye, Tom Meronek |
|-----------|---|
| EXCUSED | Cody Lukes, Steve Klock, Josh Hennlich, Lynna Martin, Michael Kelby |
| UNEXCUSED | Dennis Haanpaa, Gary Dieck |
| GUESTS | Charlie Henriksen, Mr & Mirs Ken Lundberg |

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

| | 0941 Juliee requested to change language / wordage related to tribal issues due to sensitivity of the topics in the future. EG: Use "Treaty Negotiations" instead of "Tribal Negotiations" in the future. |
|--------|---|
| ACTION | Tom Johnson made motion to approve agenda, second by David Tupa; passed on unanimous voice vote. |

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

| DISCUSSION | 0946 Reading, and review of committee mission statement | |
|------------|---|--|
| ACTION | Tom Johnson made motion to approve mission statement, second by John Blumreich; passed on unanimous voice | |
| | vote. | |

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

| DISCUSSION | See Citizen Resolution 160119 at II. A. 1. |
|------------|--|
| ACTION | NA |

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. 0948 Citizen Resolutions

1.

| Citizen Resolution | 1 160119 Resolution Supporting Creation of a Fish Passage | Chair Dale Maas |
|--|---|---|
| Ladder at the Lamprey Barrier on the Iron River. | | |
| DISCUSSION | Public comment by author Ken Lundberg who is supporting the recoalition of approximately 200 sporting clubs. The desire for the lonce the dam was removed [a dam was removed in the 1990's] the restored. There is local understanding that a lamprey barrier is neon the 1993 study there was \$300,000 in cost to build, but also the costs due to the blocking of natural reproduction. There are other making it upstream in the vicinity of the hatchery. Concern that re Popular River (approximately 5 years ago) was removed approximated the '93 study; the author recalls that the original biologis current biologists may be concerned due to the scope of the project may be necessary. Forage impact will occur, but impacted species impact. 1000 Discussion on motion. | adder is that there is public understanding that at connectivity to Lake Superior would get eded due to the quality of the watershed. Based ere is \$400,000 in 93 dollars due to hatchery entities that are concerned about possible VHS econnection may shift management. A dam on mately 30 miles away, and no VHS has been s biologists, and the retired WI DNR biologist t was strongly in support, and that the two et. Some concern that a new watershed study |
| | ((Combined based on discussion between author & Sandra) Lamprey barrier is 7 ft tall and impeding migration Last known passage was in the 1920s, and study from '93 holds data indicating historic species. Lamprey barrier was installed in the late '90's, and there was a local understanding that a 3ft barrier was going get put in, but the location was not feasible, and the dam head was raised from 3ft to 7ft which became a | |

complete barrier.

Sandra is aware of good natural reproduction of forage near-shore.

Author indicated that there are some regulatory issues to get worked out, and the issues were discussed in the '93 watershed study.

Sandra expects that the fishermen and tribal anglers would support this.

David stated that the Brule river does not have a permanent dam, and it has a barrier with a ladder, and lamprey weir in that structure. The Brule does not seem to have any reproduction issues, and the hatchery on the river does not have any issues. There is a secondary barrier near the hatchery to keep wild run fish out of the hatchery/hatchery runs.

Author asked that once the migratory fish start to come in what happens to the stocked fish? David stated that the Brule simply a good example of what could happen.

Tony asked where would the ladder get installed? Current dam location, or originally planned location?

Author responded that's a question for the engineers, they would have to determine what works best.

Tom M, Fisheries, stated lots of good comments, healthy Brooke trout stocks exist above the dam/lamprey barrier. This is an issue that has been discussed due to the hatchery, AIS, VHS, and the department currently does not have an official stance on it as there is so much information that would need to get collected. The current dam strategic analysis is still in progress, opening the river miles is concerning for lamprey treatment if lamprey get beyond the barrier. Someone will have to pay for a sorting location, or treatment, etc... if this happens and it should be considered.

Author stated that he thinks the DNR is waiting to see what type of public pressure exists.

Juliee stated concern for the fishery, and the Great Lakes and riverine and how they are affected by climate change. The best way to handle this and increase genetic diversity would be to open the most range. Hatcheries do not have the genetic diversity that nature has.

Eugene stated that he can't imagine why this committee would not support this. Mother nature can do this better than us.

Dale, with any change there are issues, and that's why the first questions are have you discussed this with the local biologists. The author re-iterated that he has spoken with the local biologists.

Tom stated that there was a stakeholder group that will probably meet again, this didn't get into the budget yet, but there is time for discussion between now and the next budget cycle.

Dale asked DNR to clarify about a sorting facility, or manned structure.

David stated that he was at the barrier previously, and that the lamprey trap is emptied once a week.

Tom M, fisheries, its not a trap at the Iron, it's a barrier, no sorting happening right now.

Bob stated we should support this; the major reproduction is the natural reproduction in the Huron-Michigan waters in Canada. Superior is struggling to have salmon growth, again the other side (non-Wisconsin) has the best reproduction. The Coho are naturally reproducing in Michigan now, and we want to provide opportunity for natural reproduction.

Author stated that USFW is removing the lampreys at the barrier now. He does not know if a fish sorting operation needs to occur. He is also concerned about the ongoing cost.

Tom M, Fisheries, clarifies that the department will work with groups if the funding can get put together, and the issues can get sorted out. The DNR works with partners like USFW and they have to make things work with them. The USFW hatcheries are working to restore natural species, they are not typically supporting put and take sport fisheries.

Dale asked if the hatchery only raises Lake trout, and Coaster Brook trout? Multiple verbal responses yes.

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| | Author stated that most of those fish at the Iron River hatchery go to other lakes than superior. | |
|---|---|-------------|
| ACTION | ACTION 0957 David Tupa made motion to approve, second by Sandra Dee Naas; passed on unanimous voice vote. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
| Sandra Dee Naas, Tom Johnson worked with author to tailor a question. | | ASAP |
| | | |
| [DESCRIPTION | OF TOPIC] | [PRESENTER] |

| 2. | [DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC] | | [PRESENTER | [2] |
|----|------------------------|--|------------|-----|
| | DISCUSSION NA | | | |
| | ACTION NA | | | |
| | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE | |
| | NA | | NA | |

B. 1027 Discussion on Lake Superior Issues

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | Tom M, Fisheries presented slides on behalf of Lake Superior team. The slides are available through Brad Ray at the WI DNR. Email dnrlakesuperiorplan@wisconsin.gov |
|------------|---|
| | Bob asked if it is true that a ghost gill net with approx. 200 dead fish was recently found near the apostle islands. |
| | Warden Chris stated that it could happen due to mechanical failure due to winter shifting ice, buoy's breaking free |

Warden Chris stated that it could happen due to mechanical failure due to winter shifting ice, buoy's breaking free, and that if one did happen there is no clear indication that something illegal happened, it could just be a mechanical breakdown.

Discussion back and forth between Bob and Dale about how this isn't necessarily a perpetrated situation of negligence, it is accidental, and probably better answer from Charlie H (GLCF).

Charlie stated that the commercial fishers notify law enforcement when a mechanical breakdown occurs and then they seek to find the net together. Two possible ice net issue is a breaker string needs to get installed so the net stays in location instead of shifting with the ice. The other issue is to avoid setting smaller harder to locate nets if a break away occurs. There has been discussion on Lake Michigan since ice can last longer than March 15th.

Juliee raised concern about microplastics and we need to concern ourselves with how those plastics can affect the fisheries. The plastics are entering the food chain.

Charlie stated that he was at lake Michigan days and a panel discussion discussed water quality and the panel was certain that microbeads are no longer entering the food chain, but there is no answer for the existing micro-beads.

Juliee started that we still need to watch the other plastics.

Chris stated [following up on earlier questions/statements] that both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior require notifications if a net is lost, but cannot speak to the tribal requirements on Lake Superior. He is aware that the various law enforcements have working agreements to help each other out and notify each other.

Chris clarified in case this was related to Manitowoc that the net in Manitowoc is not a ghost net, it is a crane and loader that fell off a barge.

| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
| NA | | NA |

C. 1040 Lake Trout Harvest

| DISCUSSION | Dale requested clarification of the 2018 closure, Sandra indicated that there was a closure in august. |
|------------|--|
| | |

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| | Tom Johnson stated that he doesn't believe that there will be a closure this year. Group discussion to indicate that there are different zones and that closures can happen in zones, and overall. Clarifying these closures is a big deal with sport fishermen along Lake Superior. "Can we trust the data?" is a repeating question considering that last years closure conflicts with the PowerPoint slide. Clarification of the WI zones, and the refuge zones. Sandra will ask Brad Ray for clarification/additional information. Warden Chris clarified allocation for WI2 18-19 approx. 16 thousand fish, the trigger for the closure is approx. 12 thousand. The 17-18 The reported catch is charter captain only which is why the trigger is lower than the quota (to account for sport fisherman catch as well). | |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| ACTION | ACTION Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
| NA | | NA |

D. 1050 Tribal Fishing Agreement Slides

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | Can search for Lake Superior Fisheries Management on WI DNR We agreement. Dale clarified that everyone understands how the process works. The the tribal reps, not the public. Sandra stated that she believes that at least the committee has more edsporting community is more concerned because no guides and sport for Bob stated that he wants the state rep to be aware of what the sporting Dale stated that Lake Superior people who are concerned with treaty author a document and move those items through the appropriate characteristic stated that the Voight decision is independent of Lake territory. These fisheries discussions are between the state and the tributes. | process is between the state government, and ducation on how the treaty rights work. The ishing anglers were ever asked for any feedback. g community has concerns for. issues need to go to their district leadership and nnels. |
|--------------|--|---|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RE | SPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| NA NA | | NA |

E. 1100 Cisco Harvest and Effort through 2018 on Lake Superior Presentation

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | Charlie stated that the Cisco harvest was recently put on a quota, and he is not sure if the harvest, and quota are compared in what is presented. A lot of the harvest was driven by row sales from the lake herring. A lot of the demand dropped because Sweden was reselling to Russia and when the ban on sale to Russia occurred there was an unexpected drop in demand because Sweden was not transparent on those sales to Russia. | |
|--------------|---|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RE | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

F. 1104 Lake Michigan Bloater Chub Harvest Presentation

| DISCUSSION | Charlie stated that a several year processes worked to automatically respond to survey work through the DNR change |
|------------|--|
| | the quotas. The process was killed by the legislature, and GLCF has it at their board, and they want to determine if |
| | they should pursue it again. The Chub fishing is self-regulating in his opinion, and no one is really pursuing chubs |
| | currently because it is very difficult work, and the fishery is not in good shape. |

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| | Dale stated that this is a common issue that work on an issue does get killed by a legislator due to the complaints of people who did not participate in the process. These things happen. Bob stated that the forage base in 2015 was the lowest since measuring started, 2018 was 3rd lowest, which is a good sign. The Chub forage base is still down. Charlie stated that Chub levels are already below Perch levels. | |
|---------------|---|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA NA | | NA |

G. 1111 Door County Boat Landing

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | Dale asked if the boat landing made it into the master plan? Tom M was not sure, Charlie stated that it did not. Charlie stated that there is a dock in Whitefish Bay, GLCF worked with the city to extend the dock, but the local property owners blocked all parking. GLCF is concerned that Whitefish Bay does not have a safe harbor for boats on the lake without a dock. Dale stated that people wanted to get this in the plan, and there is concern that it did not as it is difficult to adjust plans. Dale stated that members need to keep an eye on plans that are in progress in their counties. Charlie stated that there may be a way for the local municipality to request for something from the DNR. | |
|--------------|--|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RE | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

H. 1117 Discussion on Position in Relation to Dam Structure Removal

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | Tony asked how are dams targeted for removal? | | |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| | Tom M stated that lots of factors go into it. | | |
| | John asked how many times can a dam owner defer their safety repai | rs? | |
| | Tom M stated that he is not ware if they can. The dams have to get in occur in a relatively quick manner. Ferk dams are regulated the feder survey the dams every couple of years. State engineers are diligent or | al government, they are very strict, and they | |
| | Sandra asked does this apply to Lake Superior? How are funds allocated for dam removals? | | |
| | Tom M stated that the issue likely comes down to local resources, the WI DNR does not have the funding to remodams. The dam safety program can allocate up to \$400,000 to help repair, replace, or remove dams. Those funds not come from fisheries. The DNR would seek private funding or grants to get fish passage. | | |
| | Dale asked who prioritizes the need prior to the grant writing process? Who sets the requirements? | | |
| | John stated that getting grant money can occur through other entities, EG WITU hired a grant writer to work with local governments and WI DNR, to allocate funding to remove barriers in NW WI watersheds. | | |
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | | |
| PERSON(S) RE | SPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA | |

I. 1130 Review of Walley, Perch, and Smallmouth Bass Populations

| DISCUSSION | None |
|------------|--|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. |

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| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
|-----------------------|----------|
| NA | NA |

J. 1140 Review of Socio-Economics of Green Bay Fisheries

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | None | |
|--------------------------------|--|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | | |
| NA NA | | NA |

K. 1155 Size Increase of Harvested Fish

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | None | |
|---------------|--|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

L. 1206 Break for Lunch

NA

| DISCUSSION | NA | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|----|
| ACTION | NA | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

M. 1227 Return from Lunch

NA

| DISCUSSION | NA | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|
| ACTION | NA | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | | |
| NA | | NA |

N. 1227 DNR Net Pens

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | None | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | | DEADLINE |
| NA | | NA |

O. 1238 Preliminary Stocking Information for 2018-2019

| DISCUSSION | None | |
|---------------|--|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

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| DISCUSSION | 2 bills pending in Michigan to allow commercial fishers to target and Second bill allows them to keep and sell by-catch. Both bills are sitting Tom M presented slide related to this topic. Charlie stated that this has been on the radar, and that the Michigan of pursuing these issues. This ties to a possible revision of the consent of multiple laws, and regulations to control them, and currently they have Michigan side there is no framework in place, as commercial fishers harvest Lake Trout. In WI if 10% of the catch is not your target you I seeking commercial walleye harvest, no word in Wisconsin if this is | ommercial fishers now have a lobbyist on staff ecree. Wisconsin commercial fishers have zero quota allocated for lake trout. On the in Michigan are not allowed in regulation to have to move your nets. Michigan may be |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | | DEADLINE |
| NA NA | | NA |

Q. 1249 Steelhead Stocking

Tom Meronek, Fisheries

| DISCUSSION | 235,000 Chambers Creek 115,000 Ganaraska 0 Skamania 2021 and after everything is up for discussion. David asked why no Skamania? Explanation from mix of people that interfering with stocking plans while the new hatchery is under const. David and Dale discussed the resolution that the WCC passed concerdisappointing outcome that the stamp increase did not proceed. | ruction. |
|-----------------------|--|----------|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
| NA NA | | NA |

R. 1301 Law Enforcement Update

Chris Groth, Warden

| DISCUSSION | Parks in alignment 2.0 DNR is hiring wardens that are property specimore that will probably hit the ground in 2020. Wardens are averaging Dale asked how the process is working. Are wardens from up north to Chris stated that was alignment 1, now in alignment 2 the wardens are getting the designated wardens on site. Chris stated that some guide issues over the winter, many ice rescues to create a higher standard. Some reporting issues on the bay of Greet the issue includes some unclear guidance in the law. The transportation an issue due to people travelled into the area who are not familiar with issues, the most egregious was a 2nd offence perch fisherman who have the law concerning that. | ag 2 and half shifts a week in the parks. raveling all around the state to support the parks? e moving away from that. Tier 1 parks are Looking to add some requirements for guides in Bay concerning guides that are not reporting; on of fish that have a size limit on Green Bay is the rules on Green Bay. Some over bagging ad over 2000 fillets. |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | | DEADLINE |
| NA | | NA |

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S. 1318 Walleye, Yellow Perch, and Whitefish Interaction in Green Bay

Iyob Tsehaye, Applied Sciences

| DISCUSSION | Charlie stated that a year 3 white fish was at one time a legal 17" fish, but now a yr 3 might only reach 10". | |
|---------------|--|----|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | |
| NA | | NA |

T. Status of Lake Michigan Commercial Fisheries

Charlie Henriksen, LMCF

| DISCUSSION | For the last 2 years the LMCF has conducted a catch composition fisl White Fish. Indications are that there is not a lot of mixing of the Wh main lake. LMCF is working with Sea Grant on this study. In 2019 L catch study. Participating commercial fishers are keeping a net by net track what fish are where, and when. In previous decades the WI DNR rode with commercial fishers but grintern ride along supplements that loss of monitoring, and is validating. In the study, the modeling is going to split Green Bay from Lake Mic complicate issues for the commercial fishers as their quota/permitting. No one is monitoring the fish stocks in the Michigan waters of Green monitoring what is happening in the rivers. | ite Fish between the bay of Green Bay, and the MCF is hiring a full-time intern to track the record of White Fish, and by catch in order to be away from it due to budgetary constraints, the age the harvest, and by catch records. Chigan (starts in the near future). This will a does not necessarily split along those lines. |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| ACTION | Informational agenda item, no actions. | |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEAD | | DEADLINE |
| NA | NA NA | |

U. 1412 Reading of Formed Question from Citizen Resolution

Sandra Dee Naas

| DISCUSSION | With understanding that there will be minor grammar, and format adjustments there was a motion to approve | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------|--|
| ACTION | 1413 Eugene Altwies made motion to approve, second by John Rennpferd; passed on unanimous voice vote. | | |
| PERSON(S) RES | PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE DEADLINE | | |
| Sandra Dee Naas & John Rennpferd | | ASAP | |

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

| DISCUSSION | 1421 |
|------------|--|
| | Al apologized for late arrival, was happy to hear much of the discussion. |
| | Tyrone is conducting his first R3 program concerning outdoors skills workshop. The Wisconsin costal management program has a grant program that is available for educational purposes. |
| | Tony none |
| | John B none |
| | Juliee has a rights committee project that she is working on for the Great Lakes to ensure nature has voice in courts. |
| | Tom none |
| | Don none |
| | Eugene stated that the Pike River cleanup is sept 21st. |
| | Nick none |

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David stated that he is going to the next Lake Michigan meeting in the fall.

Sandra is concerned about the increased White Fish activity. Concerned that with the modern technology a person can get their limit each day. Concerned that we don't have enough resources on Lake Superior like those that we have on Lake Michigan.

Dale has clarified that he has been lobbying for more input on Lake Superior.

John R stated that Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimiteds annual family day is the 17th at Paradise Springs near Eagle WI.

Bob stated that he is working on the Touch of the Wild trailers, if you have not seen either trailer you should see them. This is a partnership educational item to use for free.

Tom M: If people want specific items please have them added to the agenda so the fisheries staff know what information to collect for presentation.

Iyob none

Chris none

Dale asked for a show of hands to indicate who wants to pick the next meeting date. It was hand voted yes. Next meeting is August 8th 2020.

David Tupa made a motion to approve, Bob Wincek seconded the motion, 1 vote no, 13 votes yes; motion approved. Dale reminded the committee that there are critique forms online to get feedback about the committee, and committee leadership, etc

Dale stated that we now have a memorandum of understanding for the Call of the Wild trailers. Dale is working on getting some smaller trailers. Finally have authorization to get funds and solicit 1 sponsor. Interested parties should contact the WCC.

ACTION

David Tupa made a motion to approve next meeting date, Bob Wincek seconded the motion, 1 vote no, 13 votes yes; motion approved.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

| MEETING ADJOURNED | 1451 Tony Grabski made motion to adjourn, John Blumreich seconded the motion; unanim |
|-------------------|--|
| SUBMITTED BY | John R. Rennpferd |
| DATE | 08/11/2019 |